

**PATENT****IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s)	Dinh, et al.	Examiner:	Unassigned
Serial No.:	09/899,862	Group Art Unit:	3632
Confirmation No.:	3336	Docket:	577-516 (T&B 1632)
Filed:	July 6, 2001	Dated:	October 22, 2001
For:	HANGER BAR ASSEMBLY		

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

**DECLARATION OF JILL PIERCE IN SUPPORT OF PETITION  
PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.47**

1. I am the Patent Administrator for Thomas & Betts Corporation of Memphis Tennessee.
2. Mr. Harsh Gupta is an inventor on the above-identified patent application and an employee of Thomas & Betts at the time of the invention.
3. The patent application was filed on July 6, 2001, without the Declaration and Power of Attorney document.
4. Mr. Gupta terminated his employment with Thomas & Betts prior to the filing of the application.
5. On June 5, 2001, I sent a letter to Mr. Gupta enclosing a copy of the patent application and the Declaration and Power of Attorney document for review and signature via Federal Express. The above documents were sent to Mr. Gupta's last known home address: 72

S. Arcadian Circle, #203, Memphis, TN 38125. A copy of the letter is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

6. The Federal Express package was returned to me several days later. The Federal Express mailer indicated that the recipient was no longer at that address. A copy of the Federal Express mailer with the Federal express reason for non-delivery is attached as Exhibit B.

7. On June 18, 2001, in order to determine if the package was returned in error, I again sent a Federal Express package enclosing the application and the Declaration and Power of Attorney to Mr. Gupta. A copy of the letter of the second request is attached as Exhibit C.

8. The second Federal Express package was returned to me on July 10, 2001. Federal Express indicated that the recipient was no longer at the address. A copy of the Federal Express mailer indicating this is attached hereto as Exhibit D.

9. After receiving this second undeliverable package, I inquired with various employees at Thomas & Betts in order to attempt to obtain contact information for Mr. Gupta. As a result of these efforts, I received an address that was believed to be his new place of employment.

10. On July 13, 2001, I sent the package to what was believed to be Mr. Gupta's business address via Federal Express. This address was: Smith & Nephew, Inc., 2925 Appling Road, Memphis, TN 38133. A copy of the mail room shipping request is attached as Exhibit E.


11. On August 3, 2001, after not receiving a response, I again sent a Federal Express package including the application and Declaration and Power of Attorney to Mr. Gupta's business address. A copy of this letter is attached as Exhibit F.

12. On August 22, 2001, Smith & Nephew, Inc. returned the Federal Express package to me. They also called me on or around this date and indicated that Mr. Gupta was not, and had not, been an employee there.

13. After significant efforts including further conferring with Mr. Gupta's associates at Thomas & Betts and Human Resources personnel at Thomas & Betts, I have not found any additional home or work address for Mr. Gupta. Accordingly, his whereabouts are unknown to me and Thomas & Betts.

14. I hereby declare that all the statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful, false statements and the likes that are made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful and false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued therefrom.

Dated: 10/22/01

  
Jill Pierce

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